

WHAT DOES A FOLLOWER OF JESUS LOOK LIKE?

dpc growth group studies

DUBBO
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

1. A follower of Jesus is loved by God

FOR STARTERS...

1. Why do we want to know / need to know that we are loved?

READ LUKE 15:11-32

2. In what ways did the father love the younger son?
3. In what ways did the father love the older son?
4. Which son do you most identify with?

THINK PAIR SHARE *(split up into 2s or 3s, answer the question/s, then come back and report to the rest of the group what you discovered)*

Read Romans 5:8; Romans 8:37-39; Ephesians 3:17-19

5. What do these verses add to our understanding of God's love for us?

THINKING IT THROUGH...

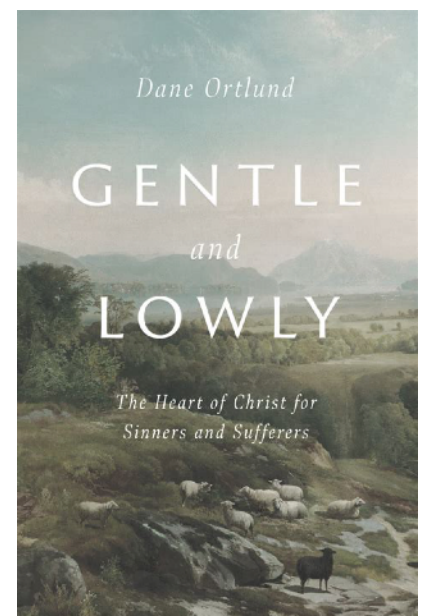
6. How does what we've read help us when:
 - a) we don't feel loved by God?
 - b) when we sin?
7. How would knowing the width and length and height and depth of the love of God in Christ Jesus shape how you think about:
 - a) God?
 - b) yourself?
 - c) your church?

GREAT BOOK TO READ

Gentle and Lowly - The Heart of Christ for Sinners and Sufferers by Dane Ortlund

A quote from the book to tease you...

"The Lord Jesus doesn't just want us to be forgiven. He wants **us**. How does Jesus speak of his own deepest desires? Like this: 'Father, I want those you have given me to be with me...' " (John 17:24).



2. A follower of Jesus wants to be like Jesus

FOR STARTERS...

1. What enthuses you the most when it comes to being made more like Jesus?

THINK PAIR SHARE

Read Romans 8:28-29; 2 Corinthians 3:17-18; Colossians 3:9-10

2. What marvellous transformation is God bringing about in his people?

A CASE STUDY: THE THESSALONIANS...

Read 1 Thessalonians 1; 2:13

3. What fantastic changes happened in the Thessalonians?
4. What produced these changes?

THINKING IT THROUGH...

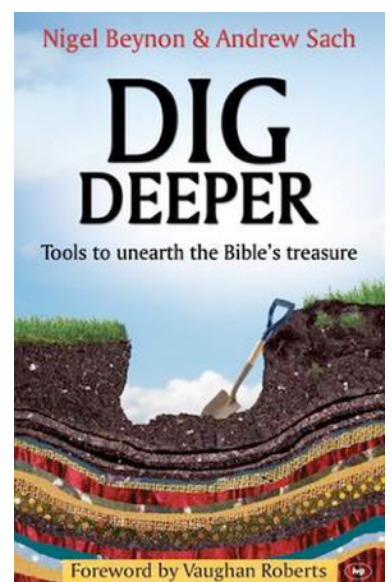
5. What kind of person do you want to be when it comes to reading and soaking in God's word?
6. What difference would this make in your life?
7. What's a next step you could take in becoming that kind of person?
8. What would it look like for us as a church to delight in God's word?
9. How can you contribute to that?

GREAT BOOK TO READ

Dig Deeper by Nigel Beynon and Andrew Sach

What's been said about the book...

"This book is brilliant. ... It will help you see the Bible as an 'all-you-can-eat' buffet rather than a 'McQuick-and-not-very-satisfying' nibble. Dig deeper and get to know God better!"
Linda Marshall, author of Pure.



3. A follower of Jesus serves like Jesus served

FOR STARTERS...

1. What makes you want to do things for others?

READ MARK 10:35-45

2. From verses 41 to 45, according to Jesus:
 - a) What's the cost of serving others?
 - b) What's the reason for serving others?
3. As a group try and come up with an illustration that helps you feel the point of what Jesus is saying in verse 45. [First clarify what Jesus' point is, then come up with an illustration!]
4. Which do you think Jesus want more: That we serve others? Or that we *want* to serve others?

THINK PAIR SHARE

Read Ephesians 4:11-13

5. What goal are we trying to achieve as serve the church?

6. How does this help in motivating us to serve one another?

THINKING IT THROUGH...

7. What kind of person do you want to be when it comes to serving others?

8. What's a next step you could take towards being that person?

9. For those who are in a ministry team with church, share what that's like with the group.

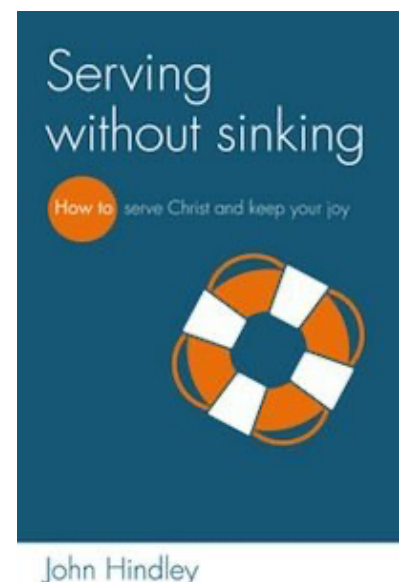
If you would like to join a ministry team at church, then head to web link below and this will get that ball rolling! dubbo.church/teams

GREAT BOOK TO READ

Serving Without Sinking by John Hindley

A quote from the book to tease you...

"I often feel weary, discouraged or bitter as I serve Jesus. I see signs of those feelings in my Christian friends, too. We seem a burdened, joyless, tired bunch. Yet it should not be like this, and it doesn't have to be like this - for me or for you."



4. A follower of Jesus is part of the church

FOR STARTERS...

1. In your life, what are some groups of people you've felt like you really belonged to? What made it that way?

READ 1 CORINTHIANS 12:12-27

2. From this word of God to us, in what sense do we belong to each other?
3. Given what we're reading in these verses, what are some of the things we will value as we think about being part of church? What values would we hold as a church?
4. For each value you came up with, what's one action that would flow out of holding that value?

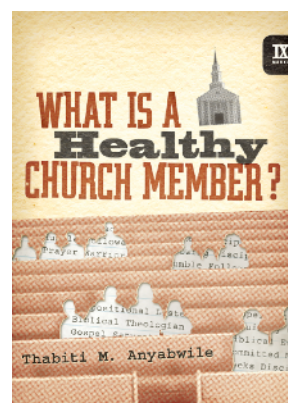
THINKING IT THROUGH...

5. How can you contribute to us as a church embracing belonging to each other in the way our arms and legs belong to each other?
6. How would believing and appreciating each other as *belonging* to one another shape all the different aspects of coming together for church? For example:
 - a) How I think about why I come to church?
 - b) Where I sit for church?
 - c) What time I arrive for church?
 - d) What time I leave from church?
 - e) How often I come to church?
 - f) Each Sunday, thinking through: What impact will I have on my church this time?

TWO GREAT (AND SHORT!) BOOKS TO READ

What is a Healthy Church? by Mark Dever

What is a Healthy Church Member? by Thabiti M. Anyabwile



5. A follower of Jesus grows more followers of Jesus

FOR STARTERS...

1. Have some members of your group share about the people who told them about Jesus.

READ MATTHEW 28:16-20

2. Why does Jesus having “all authority in heaven and earth” mean that his disciples should make more disciples? Why do these 2 things go together?
3. How does our Lord Jesus give us confidence in this?

THINK PAIR SHARE

Read 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1; Colossians 4:5-6 ; 1 Peter 3:13-17

4. What do these verses say about us making more disciples of Christ?

THINKING IT THROUGH...

5. What kind of church do we want to be in the light of what God’s saying to us from what we’ve read?

6. How can you contribute to this?
7. What are the kinds of things we do already as a church to help us all be combining together to grow more followers of Christ?
8. Write down the name of one person you would like to see become a follower of Jesus.

9. What's the next thing you can do to help them take one step closer to knowing Jesus?

GREAT BOOK TO READ:

Evangelism by J. Mack Stiles

What's been said about the book...

"Mack Stiles has written an outstanding book not just about sharing the gospel (though it is about that) or about being a personal evangelist (though it's that, too). He's written a book about how the local church actually helps us share the gospel - eases the burden, instructs, excites, cooperates. Read this little book and be encouraged!

*Mark Dever, Senior Pastor, Capitol Hill Baptist Church,
Washington, D.C.; President, 9Marks*

